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be little hope of securing, and possibly less reason for seeking, a procedure which will accord to him any greater influence in the determination of litigated questions than he is now accorded.

Meanwhile it is questionable whether progress toward such rehabilitation is achieved through advocacy of the doctrine that it is the duty of the psychiatrist to shape the law to his own concept of what it should be by "interpretations" that nullify the law as it is and to divert the jury from the issues which the court is called upon to submit.

It is possible that the author of the "Unsound Mind and the Law" did not intend to preach so casuistic a doctrine. But in view of the illustration whereby he fortifies his preachment in the following statement, I can construe it no otherwise (p. 6):

"The physician is bound by the teachings of science, and the crass antagonism between these teachings and the antiquated views of the law that so often manifests itself can but exert a beneficial and modernizing influence upon the interpretation of the laws as they exist. This becomes the more evident when we consider that, after all, it is upon the lay judges (the jury) and not upon the professional judge that the decision of guilt or innocence devolves; and in forming an opinion they as a rule will be governed less by the letter of the law than by ordinary common sense, and, therefore, will be more easily influenced by the arguments of the psychiatric expert. How each individual case may be affected by the interpretation that is given to the law is shown by the fact that, while according to the existing statutes in certain states, an attempt at suicide is a punishable offense, it is most rarely punished, even in the absence of any suspicion of mental disorder." H. S. G.

THE BENCH AND BAR OF ENGLAND. By J. A. Strahan. London: William Blackwood & Sons. 1919. pp. x, 256.

This readable little book consists of some ten chapters, each in itself really a little essay on some phase of legal life. The book aims to be amusing rather than educational; there are many entertaining anecdotes with occasional brief sketches on matters of legal history. The author entered the Middle Temple over forty years ago, consequently his account of certain aspects of legal life deal with the past, and may with advantage be compared with conditions of to-day. Perhaps the most interesting chapters are those entitled "Counsel and Students," "Young Life in the Middle Temple," and "The Life of a Lawyer."

It is to be remembered that in England the legal profession is divided into two branches, solicitor and barrister, the former preparing the case, the latter advising on difficult points of law and presenting it in court. The distinction is shown vividly and briefly by a discussion overheard between the usher of the Middle Temple Hall and an American lady. The usher, after a lengthy peroration which seemed unsuccessful in conveying to the lady's mind the difference between the two ended in desperation, "Well, it's like this, a solicitor and a barrister cannot live in the same street."

There are now only four Inns of Court left, Sergeants' Inn and the Inns of Chancery having ceased to exist. The governing body of each of these Inns of Court consists of Benchers who are eminent members of the "Senior" or "Junior" Bar. Appointments to vacancies in the Bench are filled by the existing members of it; it is a custom for all judges of the High Court to be members thereof. The management of the Inn and the admission and the examination and call of students to the Bar are within the sole discretion of the Benchers of each inn. It is interesting to remember that the late Mr. J.

H. Choate was made an honorary Bencher of the Middle Temple, being the first non-British subject to receive that honor.

Dining in Hall is usually a very pleasant business. The men dine in messes of four. There is served one of the cheapest dinners in London, wine and beer being included free of charge, which pleasant state of affairs is made possible by the facts that it is an ancient privilege of the Inns of Courts to import wine into England duty free and that it is the duty of a newly called Benchers to make a contribution of wine to the cellars of his Inn. It is the custom for a member of the royal family to belong to each Inn of Court; a few months ago the Prince of Wales was called to the Bench of the Middle Temple, in the presence of a brilliant and crowded assembly.

The "Middle" and "Inner" composing "The Temple," Lincoln's Inn and Gray's Inn, all within five minutes' walk of each other, compose unique quarters of London. One enters any of them through a great gateway from the rush and roar and din of the street, and then suddenly finds one's self in a world of quiet and peace, of beautiful lawns and gardens and squares and buildings, all some hundreds of years old; one might in fact be fifty miles from a town. "The Temple" is where all the common-law barristers are congregated; Lincoln's Inn is occupied by the Chancery men, Gray's Inn has long since ceased to be used for a barrister's professional chamber. The custom of young barristers living in the Inns of Courts in the rough and tumble manner in which they did in the author's young days has ceased; in all the Inns, most delightful apartments with every modern convenience are now to be obtained.

The Circuit System, as the author says, has received its death blow from the express train and the local Bar; the only two circuits on which anything like the old spirit of the Bar mess survives are the "Northern" and the "South Wales," which are so far distant from London as to make the journey "down and up" in the one day, together with an appearance in court, somewhat tedious; but even these are tending to decay under the influence of growing local Bars and the tendency to bring all civil cases of importance to London for trial.

As the author points out, more than half of the men called to the English Bar are from India and the colonies and intend to return to their homes to practice. Of the remainder, about one-half are called merely for the social status incident thereto, and of the others who intend to practice, only some small proportion realize their ambition. Mr. Strahan thinks that in his day equity was far cleaner and more intellectual than common law. That would not seem to be true at the present day, when the problems presented in commercial practice are quite as delicate and intricate as those found in Chancery practice.

"The Bench and Bar of England" does much more than present a picture of legal life a few decades ago. In its chatty, informal way, it marshals a list of great personages for amiable review. Like Mr. Lytton Strachey, Mr. Strahan delights to peer beneath the robe of history; indeed, he manages to slip it off altogether, and what his lawyers and judges lose in dignity, they gain in sprightliness.